

COUNTRY

Yugoslavia

REPORT NO.

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TOPIC

Sombor Military Airfield

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DATE PREPARED 13 February 1952

REFERENCES

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. [redacted] eight hangars, 60 meters long, were available at Sombor (Y 6/S 33) airfield. Two other hangars were under construction. *
2. The field and the units located there were referred to as 3d Vazduhoplovna Baza, (3d Air Base). It included the 20th, 21st, 22d, 23d, 24th and 25th squadrons, one regiment consisting of a parachute infantry battalion, a signal battalion, an AAA battalion, and a labor battalion. Officers assigned to the air base included Colonel Drago Vukovic, commanding officer of the 3d Air Base; Major Ivo Grgic, political officer (the designation of politicki rukovodja which means political commissar was abolished); Major Milan Nedrijski, chief of staff (nacelnik staba); Colonel Predrag Mihailovic, regimental commander; Lieutenant Bozo Milosavljevic, political officer; Captain Drago Javic, chief of staff; Captain Slobodan Jakic, fighter pilot; Captain Simo Kovic, assault pilot; Lieutenant Ivan Crnjajic bomber pilot; and Captain Milos Robeta fighter pilot and political officer were instructors for flight personnel who attended six-month courses. During the reported period, the course was attended by 72 trainees including officers and NCOs. The permanent flight personnel included 56 officer bomber pilots; 118 officer fighter pilots; 33 NCO bomber pilots; and 26 NCO fighter pilots. Married pilots were not billeted at the field but in Sombor or Apatin (Y 6/S 33). The non-flying personnel of the regiment included 16 officers, 68 NCOs and 1,263 EM. Every five days, the 3d Air Base was inspected by air force Lieutenant General Vlado Matetic. ** The air base was equipped with 26 Yaks, 26 Yugoslav G-42s manufactured at the Ikarus aircraft factory in Zemun, 6 Messerschmidts, 6 US Mustangs, and 2 Soviet Storchs. The aircraft were parked in hangars. ***

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[redacted] Comment. According to available information, only three hangars existed at Sombor airfield. However, it is possible that the installations of the field were considerably expanded in recent years. In view of the heavy occupation mentioned in the report, this assumption may be correct.

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[redacted] Comment. Sombor airfield was previously believed to be occupied by the 4th Mixed Air Division of the Yugoslav Air Force including most of the bombers of this division. The present report indicates that the Yugoslav Air Force was reorganized after 1948. The designation of air base is reported for the first time. It is unknown whether this designation refers to a division or only to an airfield. However, since a mixed regiment including air base troops seems to be subordinate to the commander of the air base in addition to air units, the air base may actually be a tactical division. It is believed that the training of pilots still

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is the primary mission of the Bomber 3d Air Base.

25X1 ***  Current. All aircraft types mentioned in the present report are fighters. The statement that the assigned personnel at the air base also included a large number of bomber pilots, cannot be clarified. These pilots may be former bomber pilots who were being retrained with fighter or ground attack aircraft.

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